

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 - 11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A computer program product for use in conjunction with a commodity-based system for conducting financial transactions, the system including at least one deposit site having secure facilities for storage of a quantity of fungible precious metal, said computer program product embodied on computer-readable medium and comprising code that, when executed on a computer, causes the computer to perform the following steps:

identify create an electronic data file having a unique serial number associated ~~with one of~~ therewith, and store said electronic data file as one of a plurality of electronic data files;

identify an amount of the fungible precious metal represented by said ~~one of a plurality of~~ electronic data files file and store the identified amount as part of said electronic data file, wherein the identified amount being no greater than a deposit of the fungible precious metal having been previously received at the secure facilities, whereby a total amount of fungible precious metal represented by the plurality of electronic data files is less than or equal to no greater than the quantity of fungible precious metal stored in the secure facilities;

identify a date associated with said electronic data file, said date indicating the date when said electronic data file was created, and store the date as part of said electronic data file;

verify create a digital signature for authenticating said electronic data file, and store the digital signal as part of said electronic data file.

13. (previously presented) A computer program product in accordance with claim 12 wherein said computer data are digital data.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A computer program product in accordance with claim 12 wherein said precious metal comprises gold.

16 - 23. (cancelled)